



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2003
Committee Statement
LB 332

Hearing Date: February 24, 2003 **CORRECTED**
Committee On: Business and Labor

Introducer(s): (Hudkins, Hartnett, Janssen, Jones, Kremer, Vrtiska, Wehrbein, Bromm, Stuthman)

Title: Change workers' compensation provisions relating to volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance drivers and volunteer emergency care providers

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File
X Advanced to General File with Amendments
Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

7 Yes	Senator Vrtiska, Burling, Kremer, Combs, Hartnett, Preister, Chambers
No	
Present, not voting	
Absent	

Proponents:

Senator Hudkins
Larry Ball
Jerry Stilmock
James Cavanaugh
Chuck Schmid
Rod Rehm
Rich Lombardi

Representing:

Introducer
Ball Insurance
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighter Association
Independent Insurance Agents of Nebraska
St. Paul Volunteer Fire Department
Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys
Nebraska Emergency Medical Service Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 332 deals with workers' compensation coverage for volunteer safety personnel. The bill would amend workers' compensation provisions relating to volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance drivers and volunteer emergency care providers by providing that coverage commences from the instant that such persons commence responding to a call to active duty and will be deemed employees of the political or nonprofit entity for whom they volunteer until they return to the location from which they were initially called to active duty or otherwise engaged in any activity beyond the scope of the performance of their duties, whichever comes first.

Section 1 amends §48-115, the workers' comp elective compensation statute that defines employee, by revising when employment begins for volunteer firefighters. New language provides that such volunteers are to be considered as having entered and acting in the course of employment *from the instant such persons commence responding to a call to active duty*. Current language states that this employment begins when the volunteer is traveling to duty.

Same change made pursuant to volunteer ambulance drivers, attendants, and emergency care providers.

New language added that volunteers are deemed employees until their return to the location from which they were initially called to active duty, or until they engage in activity beyond the scope of their duties, whichever comes first.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Committee amendment adopted that would add an emergency clause

Senator Floyd P. Vrtiska, Chairperson